


FICKLIN, ORLANDO B.

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CONTEMPORARIES

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Abraham Lincoln's Contemporaries

Orlando B. Ficklin

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Note for Mr. Young E. Allison, Louisville, Ky., from H. C. Ficklen,
Danville, Va., Feb. 25th, 1929.

Mr. Ficklen sends his best greetings to Mr. Allison and thanks for the clipping from the Times, New Harmony, Ind., Feb. 15, 1929, recalling the name of Hon. O. B. Ficklen of Ill., and says to Mr. Allison:

O. B. Ficklen, born Dec. 16, 1808, died May 5, 1885, was my kinsman, but remote --- in this fashion: The first in Virginia (about 1720) was a William Ficklen, who had 4 sons, William, Thomas, Anthony, and Benjamin. O. B. Ficklen was descended from William 2nd and I from Benjamin.

Thomas Ficklen, son of William 2nd, was of Spottsylvania Co., Va., and married Mary Herndon. Emigrated to Kentucky about 1780. Among his sons were John Herndon Ficklen and William Augustus Ficklen. William Augustus Ficklen and his wife, Elizabeth Kenner Williams, were born in Virginia but removed to Kentucky where their son Orlando B. Ficklen was born (in Scott or Fayette Co., I think). He and his parents finally went to Washington Co., Missouri. He was educated in Kentucky, Princeton College, Caldwell Co., and Missouri.

The grandparents of O. B. Ficklen, namely Thomas Ficklen and Mary Herndon Ficklen, were in the stockade at Bryant's Station, near Lexington, Ky., during the Indian siege Aug. 15--17, 1782, and Mary Herndon Ficklen and her little daughter were among the women who got water from the spring --- all of which is said to be related in Vol. 12 of publications of The Filson Club of Louisville --- monument said to have been erected at the spring by the D.A.R.

Orlando B. Ficklen was a very prominent lawyer of Illinois and a close friend of both Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas. He commenced practice in Mt. Carmel, Wabash Co., and after serving in the Black Hawk War, he removed to Charleston, Coles Co., Ill., served several terms in the Legislature, and from about 1842-1848 represented the Wabash District in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving therein at the same time with Stephen A. Douglas.

In the Illinois Law Review, Jan. 1907, is an account of the Matson Slave Case (1847), in which O. B. Ficklen and Abraham Lincoln were opposing counsel. In 1858, at Charleston, Ill., as a friend of both, he presided over the Lincoln-Douglas debate at that place.

I have never known who or whence was the Herndon who was Lincoln's law partner. O. B. Ficklen's grandmother was a Herndon (Spottsylvania and Fredericksburg, Va.) and his uncle John Herndon Ficklen not only had Mary Herndon for his mother but he also married Anna Herndon. It may be that there was some sort of tie between these and the Herndon law partner.

O. B. Ficklen was sent back to Congress in 1850. In 1856 member of convention which nominated Buchanan for President. In 1860 member of the Charleston convention. In 1864 member of convention that nominated McClellan for President. In 1869 member of Constitutional Convention. In 1878 went back to State House of Representatives. Was Elector at large for Ill. three times, the last when Cleveland was first elected.

A town in Douglas Co., Ill., is named "Ficklen" for him. He married a sister of Governor Colquitt of Georgia.

He visited my uncles and relatives in Fredericksburg, Va., while in Congress.

He left four sons and his name is still represented in Illinois, California and Montana.

I love genealogical and other tidbits and greatly appreciate them at your hands. In every way possible I will reciprocate. At present I can only note Fair Alisoun of the Canterbury Tales; Allison and Addison, of Richmond, Va.; and General Sir Archibald Allison of Sebastopol fame, and other great "Ladies of Hell" (& Jock o' Hazeldean).

